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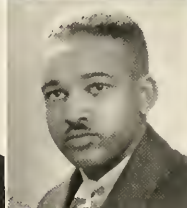
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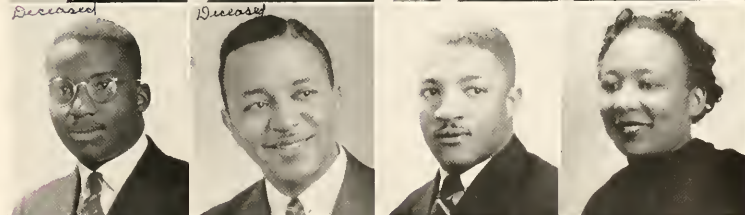
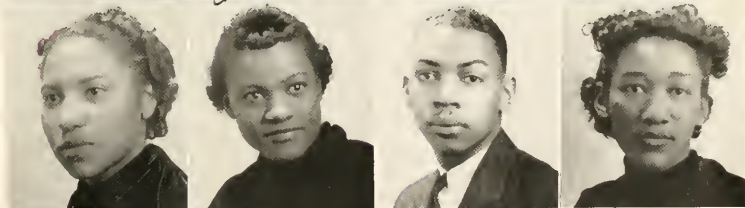
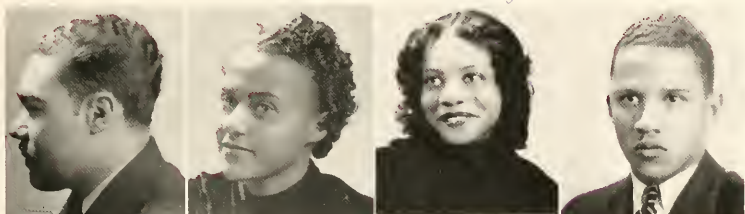
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HISTORY OF CLASS OF 1940

In September 1936, the freshman class of North Carolina College for Negroes started on its way, with Mrs. J. W. Harris as sponsor. But, being mere freshmen, we had nothing to do the first week except wander around, get acquainted with our freshman kin, the buildings, take the required mental and physical tests, and enjoy entertainments given for us.

George Norman was elected President of the class; Beatrice Madison, Secretary; E. G. Spaulding, Treasurer; Thelma Battle, Chairman of the Social Committee; and Naomi McLean and Milton Johnson, representatives of the Student Council. Full of spirit and pep we were now ready to begin our work. The first social affair given by the freshman class for the student body was a dance—to the sweet tunes of Billy Stafford's orchestra. Souvenirs and punch and cookies remind us of the revelry.

Customarily Mrs. Harris had been the sponsor of all freshmen classes. The Class of '40, so inspired by her teachings, literally drafted her to "mother" us in our sophomore year. She did! We again elected George Norman, President; Milton Johnson, Vice President; Robert L. Duren, Secretary; Thelma L. Battle, Chairman of the Social Committee; and Joseph A. Christmas, Treasurer. Again, wanting to give something for the students, we gave a Valentine dance. Due to the growth of the student body we used the gym for this entertainment. Souvenirs were given to our guests along with special features.

The sophomores felt quite proud to be called upon to act as guides when our nine new buildings were dedicated.

At the end of our second year Charles Cobb was elected President for the junior year; Thelma L. Battle, Vice President; Josephine Pittman, Secretary; and Stephen Thomas, Treasurer. Naomi McLean and Geneva Harper were the representatives for the Student Council. Plans for the junior year's work were discussed.

Our young men formed themselves into a committee to meet all trains and buses bearing students in September, to give the freshmen any helpful information or assistance. The young women pledged to do their best to make the newcomers feel at home. We also planned for a party to be given for all freshmen and new students. It was the first of its kind by upper-classmen.

Our biggest affair for this year was the Junior-Senior Prom which to us was really something great. Setting a precedent, we were permitted to invite young men of the alumni to attend our Prom. The Music Assembly, beautifully decorated with smilax and flowers, gave the impression of a garden where lovers meet. The music was in keeping with the beauty—that of Jimmy Gunn of Charlotte, North Carolina. The queen was none other than Robert L. Duren of Camden, South Carolina, with her attendants Othelia Watson and Thelma L. Battle. Our beloved sponsor, Mrs. J. W. Harris, was presented with a basket of flowers.

The Class of '40 delights in doing things to make others happy. The minstrel show that was given by the juniors brought out many hearty laughs.

The class officers elected for the senior year were Charles Cobb, President; James Brown, Vice President; Josephine Pittman, Secretary; Stephen Thomas, Treasurer; and Thelma Battle, Chairman of the Social Committee.

The first dramatic affair of the year, "The Whole Town's Talking," was given by the senior class. By the large crowd that turned out, we are sure that we could get many "Amens" of the fact that the play was a success.

The Commencement exercises will signify not only the conclusion of one chapter of our class history, but also the beginning of the serious work of our lives, when the Graduating Class of '40 of the North Carolina College for Negroes will write its real history, that of achievements and successes of its members.

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